

2014 NC NHD Teacher Awards

Congratulations to the following teachers, who won awards at the 2014 National History Day in North Carolina contest:

The Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award recognizes outstanding National History Day teachers who use creative teaching methods to interest students in history and to help them make exciting discoveries about the past. Each year, thanks to the generosity of Patricia Behring, NC NHD is able to recognize two North Carolina teachers, one at the junior level and one at the senior level

2014 Patricia Behring Middle School Teacher of the Year

Kimberly Jamison of Swain Middle School has been a stalwart supporter of National History Day for over twenty years. She first participated in the program with her own research project as an eighth grader in North Carolina. Years later, as a teacher, she has ignited History Day participation wherever she has taught—three different middle schools—and has increased engagement with the program beyond her own class to 175 students across the school. In addition, she has championed the event far and wide, urging colleagues at other schools in her region to begin History Day programs.



NHD in NC congratulates Kimberly Jamison for winning the 2014 Patricia Behring Middle School Teacher of the Year Award.

2014 Patricia Behring Senior High Teacher of the Year Award

Lisa Dillon of Hendersonville has worked with students for six years and successfully coached twelve participants (and counting) to the national level in the performance, documentary, and website categories. Described by a parent as the “Queen of Creative Teaching Ideas,” this educator engages students with an array of methods including rhymes, quiz games, and re-enactments. She inspires students to learn history and motivates them to strive for excellence.

NHD in NC congratulates Lisa Dillon for winning the 2014 Patricia Behring Senior High Teacher of the Year Award.

Joseph B. Hughes Award

The Joseph B. Hughes Award is a new award that began last year. An anonymous North Carolina family sponsors this award in honor of their children's inspirational teacher. Mr. Hughes teaches at St. Peter's Catholic School in Greenville and has participated in National History Day for more than 20 years. The Hughes award recognizes excellence in history education and congratulates a teacher who cultivates critical thinking skills through the National History Day program.

This year's recipient, **Chris Hollifield**, is a history hero, widely admired in his county. Parents nominated this teacher with praise for his "tradition of outside-of-the-box teaching" methods. Colleagues marvel at his dedication and the enthusiasm for history he has developed among his students. A grateful student credits him with nurturing both her career goals and her self-confidence. Under his tutelage, she was able to complete a documentary that, despite not winning at the state level, has since served as a useful teaching tool in his classroom about a North Carolina topic and has become motivational example for subsequent History Day hopefuls.



His excellence in history education goes beyond coaching his students to achieve high standards in their History Day projects. This teacher expresses his love of North Carolina history by maintaining a classroom "shrine to everything North Carolina," researching and writing books on local history, and engaging students with innovative projects such as mural creation. In addition, he coordinates a "Mountains to the Sea" learning tour each year for all 8th-grade students in his county.

NC NHD congratulates Chris Hollifield of Harris Middle School in Spruce Pine for winning the 2014 Joseph B. Hughes Award.